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Man Denies Selling U.S. Secrets to Soviets

By LARRY STAMMER, Times Staff Writer

A former TRW employee Friday denied that he joined convicted spies Christopher Boyce and Andrew Daulton Lee in selling American satellite secrets to the Soviet Union.

Chris Sherman of Gardena issued the denial in the aftermath of a claim by Lee's fiancée, free-lance writer Kathleen McKenney, that Sherman reportedly had obtained the secrets and then passed them to Boyce, who in turn gave them to Lee for sale to the Soviets.

She described Sherman as a "CIA operative." Sherman, a 33-year-old father of two children, called the allegations "slanderous."

"They're untrue and unfounded. I was investigated thoroughly by the FBI and TRW and was completely cleared of any wrongdoing," Sherman said. "I cooperated 100%."

He was backed up by Richard Stiltz, the former assis-

tant U.S. attorney who prosecuted Boyce and Lee in 1977. Stiltz said Sherman was cleared of any involvement in the case after an extensive investigation by the FBI and TRW.

Sherman left TRW in August, 1977, for another job.

"I'm not in any classified work anymore," he said. Asked if his security clearance had been lifted, Sherman said: "This is strictly by choice. I moved for a better-paying job and did get one." He said he is eligible to be rehired by TRW and declined to say where he works or the nature of his job.

At a San Diego press conference last week, McKenney identified Sherman as a "CIA operative" and said: "He was working in the 'black vault' with Chris Boyce at TRW. If I'm not mistaken, he was one of Boyce's bosses. It is my information that he (Sherman) passed the information to Boyce and Boyce passed it to (Lee)."

Sherman confirmed that he had worked with Boyce, but said he could not recall if his job placed him in a supervisory capacity over Boyce.

Asked if he had worked for the CIA, Sherman said, "I worked for TRW." He replied with a "no comment" when questioned whether he had been associated with the CIA.

Since McKenney's allegations, Sherman said, he received an anonymous note Wednesday that accused him of being a traitor.

He said a misspelled message was slipped through the mail slot at his home. He said the note read, "I hope you get life, trader (sic)."

On Thursday, Sherman said, his home was burglarized. He said he believes the burglary is connected with the publicity because the burglar went through his papers but took nothing.

McKenney plans to marry Lee on Jan. 2 at a ceremony at the Lompoc federal prison, where he is serving a life sentence on his 1977 conviction with Boyce of selling classified information on American satellites to the Soviet Union for \$76,000 in 1975 and 1976.